

MODIFICATION TO UNANIMOUS-  
CONSENT AGREEMENT PROVID-  
ING FOR FURTHER CONSIDER-  
ATION OF H.R. 3814, DEPART-  
MENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE,  
AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, last night I offered a unanimous-consent request that was agreed to for the further consideration of H.R. 3814. There was an inadvertent error in that request that I would now like to correct. I ask unanimous consent that the earlier agreement be modified so that the gentleman from Iowa [Mr. GANSKE] may offer an amendment regarding the patenting of medical procedures for 20 minutes instead of amendment No. 16 printed in the RECORD that is on the same subject.

Mr. Speaker, I understand this has been cleared with the minority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the further consideration of H.R. 3814, and that I may and include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,  
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-  
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 479 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3814.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3814) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. GUNDERSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Tuesday, July 23, 1996, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MILLER] had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 49, line 3, through page 116, line 5.

Are there further amendments made in order by the order of the House of Tuesday, July 23, 1996?

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. ROGERS:

On page 55, line 22, strike "\$66,000,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$68,000,000".

On page 56, line 4, strike "\$1,837,176,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$1,839,176,000".

On page 56, line 6, strike "\$71,276,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$73,276,000".

On page 56, line 10, strike "\$292,907,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$298,907,000".

On page 56, line 13, strike "\$429,897,000" and insert in lieu thereof "\$425,897,000".

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, July 23, 1996, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS] and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS].

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this is a non-controversial amendment. I am offering this amendment to address concerns raised by some coastal Members on both sides of the aisle. The amendment would make some minor internal shifts within NOAA in order to restore funding for endangered species recovery programs, primarily for salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest.

Funding for these activities would be offset from within NOAA. It would cost no extra money. I know of no objections.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE].

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding me the time, and I rise in strong support of this amendment. It will ensure adequate funding for two of NOAA's programs that are critical to our coastal ecosystems and to the fishing industry. It is an amendment which will help the endangered species and, indeed, endangered fishermen and endangered coastal communities.

It will restore to the fiscal year 1996 level the endangered species recovery programs. These are NOAA programs. When a species is listed, the recovery is in place.

As many as 16 million salmon once made it up the Columbia River, and they were just a basis of our economy. But as recently as 1988 those species began to diminish. The recovery plans will mean that our environmental protection will be in place for those species, and it will also help us recover nearly 50,000 jobs that have been lost.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is supported by Oregon's Governor, by the commercial and sports fishing industry, and it is also supported by those who represent several billion dollars in annual economic activity and more than 100,000 family wage jobs.

This is a vote for the environment. It is a vote for America's fishing men and women. It is a vote in favor of rec-

reational fishing and critical tourism dollars. It is a small investment, but it will have an enormous benefit for working Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I want very much to thank the gentleman from Kentucky, Chairman ROGERS, and the gentleman from West Virginia, Mr. MOLLOHAN, the ranking member for working on this amendment, for bringing it forward. I believe that it is a great amendment. I thank you for looking out for our fishing men and women and our coastal communities, and I really support this amendment. I thank the Members for all their fine work on it.

Mr. ROGERS. Reclaiming my time, congratulations to the gentlewoman. She has been a real stalwart supporter of this cause. We congratulate her on this effort.

Mr. Chairman, I know of no opposition, no other speakers. I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend Chairman ROGERS for his very responsible amendment to increase funding for the NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities account.

I am hopeful that some of these funds will be used to augment one of most important programs in this appropriations bill, the Mitchell Act hatcheries. For decades the Federal Government has financed a hatchery program to compensate for the loss of salmon due to hydroelectric projects on the Columbia River. These facilities supported by the so-called Mitchell Act are critical to the maintenance of the region's multi-million dollar commercial and sports fishing industries.

The funding in this bill for Mitchell Act hatcheries was initially less than we need to maintain this vital program. However, I am pleased that Chairman ROGERS has agreed to increase the funds for NOAA activities so that the agency has more flexibility to fund the Mitchell Act hatcheries at a level that ensures a viable fishery in the Northwest.

While I am a strong proponent of balancing the budget, I believe that deep cuts in the Mitchell Act program will actually create more economic hardship for the already depressed fishing industry. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to ensure that we pass a bill that keeps our commitment to the people of the Northwest.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. ROGERS].

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ALLARD

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. ALLARD:

Page 58, strike lines 18 through 23 (relating to the Under Secretary for Technology and the Office of Technology Policy).

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, July 23, 1996, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr.